

Please find below, Utah State Parks news for May 3:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2011

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stateparks.utah.gov

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- Utah State Parks Road Trip- Six People, 43 Parks, Three Days
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PLAN AHEAD TO CAMP IN UTAH'S STATE PARKS

Salt Lake City – Now is the time to reserve your campsite in a Utah state park. Reservations for individual campsites can be made up to 16 weeks prior to their date of departure from the park, and 11 months in advance for group sites.

Approximately 90 percent of campsites at 23 state parks are reservable, but fill quickly, especially on weekends and holidays. In addition to guaranteeing a spot, having a reservation account expedites park check-in and reduces time spent waiting in line.

These state parks currently have sites available for Memorial Day Weekend, but are filling quickly: Bear Lake, East Canyon, Hyrum, Jordanelle, Quail Creek, Red Fleet, Rockport, Scofield, Starvation, Utah Lake and Yuba.

To make a reservation, call 801-322-3770 or 800-322-3770 from outside the Salt Lake area. Customers may reserve up to three campsites per call. Reservations are also available online at stateparks.utah.gov.

For more information, campground maps, or current park conditions, please visit stateparks.utah.gov.

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UTAH STATE PARKS ROAD TRIP – SIX PEOPLE, 43 PARKS, THREE DAYS

Syracuse – Starting at noon Thursday, May 12 from Antelope Island State Park, a group of six people will pile in an RV and drive approximately 2,200 miles visiting all 43 state parks and returning back to Antelope Island Sunday, May 15. A full itinerary is available at stateparks.utah.gov/roadtrip.

“The idea of the Road Trip is to showcase the importance, beauty and diversity of Utah’s state park system and rally Utahns to come out and support their favorite state parks, and state parks in their communities,” said Barbara Riddle.

Barbara Riddle, Chris Dallin, Tim Hughes, Russ Smith, Bill Francis and Vaughn Jacobsen will share close quarters in an RV as they visit the parks. The trip is funded privately and through in-kind donations. During and after the trip, the Road Trippers will blog, and share video and photos through updates on their website at www.utahstateparksroadtrip.com.

“We challenge every Utahn to visit a state park this year, if we can do all 43 parks in three days, you can visit one,” said Russ Smith with Skycall Communications.

The Road Trip coincides with the Utah Tourism Conference and National Tourism Week, and is an official Travel Day Event designated by U.S. Travel. Road Trippers will stop briefly at the Utah Tourism Conference in Park City on Thursday night to meet up with the Utah Tourism Industry Coalition, Utah Office of Tourism, and other tourism entities.

Tourism is one of Utah’s largest industries, generating \$6.2 billion in traveler spending every year and \$625 million in state and local taxes. Utah’s state parks alone host nearly 5 million visitors annually.

Many state parks, including Antelope Island and Territorial Statehouse are planning community events around the Road Trip. All visitors to state parks that day will receive a Utah State Parks supporter pin; no taxpayer money was used to purchase pins.

Established by the 1957 Utah Legislature, the state park system has been a recent target of budget cuts, stripped of \$8.3 million in general funds over the last four years. With no new funding in sight for operations or replacement of aging facilities, the Road Trippers want to raise awareness about and support for Utah’s state parks.

For more information, please call:

Barbara Riddle, 801-774-8200
Tim Hughes, 801-575-1160
Russ Smith, 801-450-8317
Bill Francis, 801-603-1943
Chris Dallin, 801-589-2929
Vaughn Jacobsen, 801-589-6207

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VISIT UTAH STATE PARKS FOR FREE, CHECK IT OUT!

Salt Lake City – Utahns may visit state parks for free through the Check It Out! program. Utah State Parks works with municipal and county library systems to place Annual Park Passes in area libraries; Check It Out!

Library patrons check out an Annual Park Pass as they would a book or CD, and visit the parks of their choice. The Annual Park Pass allows the person who checks out the pass and up to seven guests in the same private vehicle, day-use entrance to most Utah State Parks. Passes are not valid at This Is The Place Heritage Park, do not cover Davis County Causeway fee at Antelope Island State Park, and are good for one rider/machine only at Jordan River OHV State Recreation Area.

Participating libraries include:

American Fork Library, American Fork
Anderson-Foothill Branch, Salt Lake City
Bingham Creek Library, West Jordan
Brigham City Library, Brigham City
Cedar City Library, Cedar City
Centerville Branch Library, Centerville
Central Branch Library, Layton
Chapman Branch, Salt Lake City
Columbus Library, South Salt Lake City
Corinne and Jack Sweet Branch, Salt Lake
Davis County Library, Farmington
Day-Riverside Branch, Salt Lake City
Delta City Library, Delta
Draper City Library, Draper
Dugway Post Library, Dugway
Eagle Mountain Public Library, Eagle Mountain
East Millcreek Library, Salt Lake City
Escalante City Library, Escalante
Fillmore City Library, Fillmore
Garden City Library, Garden City
Garland Public Library, Garland
Grand County Public Library, Grand County
Helper Library, Helper
Herriman Library, Herriman
Highland City Library, Highland
Holladay Library, Holladay
Hunter Library, West Valley City
Hyrum Library, Hyrum
Iron County Bookmobile, Iron County
Kamas City Library, Kamas
Kanab City Library, Kanab
Kaysville Branch Library, Kaysville
Kearns Library, Kearns
Lewiston Library, Lewiston
Logan Library, Logan
Magna City Library, Magna
Minersville Library, Minersville
Monroe Library, Monroe
Morgan County Library, Morgan County
Murray City Library, Murray
Newton Town Library, Newton
North Branch Library, Clearfield
North Logan City Library, North Logan

Northwest Branch Library, Syracuse
Orem Public Library, Orem
Park City Library, Park City
Parowan Library, Parowan
Payson City Library, Payson City
Pleasant Grove City Library
Rich County Library, Rich County
Richfield Public Library, Richfield
Riverton Library, Riverton
Ruth V. Tyler Library, Midvale
Salem City Library, Salem
Salt Lake City Library System, Salt Lake City
Salt Lake County Library System, Salt Lake County
San Juan County Library, San Juan County
Sandy Library, Sandy
Sanpete County Bookmobile, Sanpete
Smithfield Library, Smithfield
South Branch Library, Bountiful
South Jordan Library, South Jordan
Spanish Fork Library, Spanish Fork
Sprague Branch, Salt Lake City
Springville Public Library, Springville
Taylorsville Library, Taylorsville
Tooele City Library, Tooele
Tooele County Bookmobile, Grantsville
Tremonton City Library, Tremonton
Uintah County Library, Vernal
Utah County Bookmobile, Mapleton
Wasatch County Library, Wasatch County
Washington County Library, Washington County
Weber County Library, Weber County
West Jordan Library, West Jordan
West Valley Library, West Valley City
Whitmore Library, Salt Lake City

For more information, visit stateparks.utah.gov/rockin-utah or call 801-538-7220 or 877-UTPARKS.

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RIDE ON! VIDEO CONTEST ENDS MAY 13

Salt Lake City – In an effort to educate and promote responsible off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, Utah State Parks and Recreation, Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), and the Larry H. Miller Group co-sponsor the RIDE ON! video contest with cash and prizes awarded to students and schools.

Students are invited to submit videos incorporating principles of safe and responsible OHV riding, and stewardship of School and Institutional Trust Lands. Winning videos will be used by SITLA and Utah State Parks to communicate the importance of protecting and respecting SITLA lands, and share safe OHV riding messages.

"Educating youth about responsible riding is important," commented Utah State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator Chris Haller. "This contest allows kids to be creative and have fun while learning how to be safe and protect riding privileges for future generations."

Students can earn cash and prizes for themselves, their schools and teachers. No taxpayer money is used for prizes. To enter a video and for more information, visit stateparks.utah.gov/rideonvideocontest. Entries are accepted now through Friday, May 13.

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UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

May 21 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Full Moon Hike: Join the park naturalist at 9:30 p.m. to learn about and listen for nocturnal animals. Enjoy a short walk along the canyon rim overlooking the canyons of the Colorado River. Please bring water, warm clothing, sturdy shoes, a flashlight and binoculars. This activity is free with your \$10 park admission. Space is limited and registration is required two days prior to event either by phone or in person. 435-259-2614

May 21 Jordanelle State Park - Heber
Safe Boating Event: Stop by the Safe Boating booth from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a free boat safety inspection. If your boat passes, you receive a free one-day Jordanelle State Park pass valid Monday through Thursday. 435-649-9540

May 21 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins
Nature's Bounty: Learn to identify traditional uses of some of Snow Canyon's edible and medicinal plants during this 1.5-mile, round-trip hike from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Space is limited and registration is required. 435-628-2255

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